UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/CONF.157/PC/70
19 April 1993

Original: ENGLISH

WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Preparatory Committee
Fourth session
Geneva, 19-30 April 1993
Item 11 of the provisional agenda

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE STATUS OF PREPARATIONS FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE

1. The present report is prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 45/155 and 46/116, requesting the Secretary-General to inform the Preparatory Committee of the status of the preparations for the World Conference on Human Rights.

Venue and dates of the World Conference

2. In its decision 46/473 of 6 May 1992, the General Assembly, noting with deep satisfaction the decision of the Government of Austria to invite the World Conference on Human Rights to meet at Vienna, decided that the World Conference would be convened at Vienna for two weeks in June 1993. The Conference is, therefore, scheduled to be held at the Austria Centre, Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, preceded by informal intergovernmental consultations from 9 to 11 June 1993.

Preparatory Committee

3. The General Assembly, in paragraph 2 of its resolution 45/155, decided to establish a Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights, open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies, with the participation of observers, in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly.

4. The Preparatory Committee held three sessions, as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolutions 45/155 and 46/116. The sessions were held at the United Nations Office at Geneva, as follows:

(a) From 9 to 13 September 1991 (report contained in document A/CONF.157/PC/13);

(b) From 30 March to 10 April 1992 (report contained in document A/CONF.157/PC/37);

(c) From 14 to 18 September 1992 (report contained in document A/CONF.157/PC/54).

5. The fourth session of the Preparatory Committee, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/122, is scheduled to be held from 19 to 30 April 1993 at Geneva.

6. Within its mandate, as prescribed by the General Assembly, the Preparatory Committee at its first, second and third sessions made proposals regarding the agenda, date, duration, venue of and participation at the Conference, as well as the draft rules of procedure for the Conference. The Preparatory Committee further took up the issues of studies and documentation in the process of substantive preparations for the World Conference, in accordance with the goals and objectives of the Conference as set out in paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 45/155.

7. At its forty-seventh session, on 18 December 1992, the General Assembly adopted resolution 47/122, containing the provisional agenda for the World Conference.

Regional meetings

8. Regional meetings were held in the course of the preparatory process, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/155. The Regional Meeting for Africa took place at Tunis, from 2 to 6 November 1992. The meeting adopted resolutions and a Final Declaration, as contained in document A/CONF.157/AFRM/14-A/CONF.157/PC/57.

9. The Regional Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean was held at San José from 18 to 22 January 1993. The San José Declaration on Human Rights adopted at that meeting is contained in document A/CONF.157/LACRM/15-A/CONF.157/PC/58.

10. The Regional Meeting for Asia convened at ESCAP headquarters at Bangkok from 29 March to 2 April 1993 and adopted a Final Declaration, as contained in document A/CONF.157/ASRM/8-A/CONF.157/PC/59.

Other meetings

11. Other meetings have been organized under the auspices of the United Nations human rights programme pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/155. These meetings are referred to in documents A/CONF.157/PC/43 and A/CONF.157/PC/65. Document A/CONF.157/PC/42/Rev.1 contains an analytical compilation of the outcomes of the meetings which have already been held.

Participation

12. The Preparatory Committee, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/155, paragraph 3, has taken a number of decisions pertaining to the participation of certain institutions and organizations at the Conference.

13. At its second session, the Preparatory Committee decided, in rule 64 of the rules of procedure for the World Conference, to admit representatives designated by national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights as observers in the deliberations of the Conference.

14. In addition, the Preparatory Committee, at its third session, decided (decision PC.3/2), without a vote, to recommend to the General Assembly that it request the Secretary-General to invite the following non-governmental organizations to the regional meetings for the World Conference on Human Rights:

(a) Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council which are active in the field of human rights and/or development as well as in the concerned region;

(b) Other non-governmental organizations which are active in the field of human rights and/or development, and have their headquarters in the concerned region, in prior consultation with the countries of the region.

Documentation and publications

15. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/155, paragraph 10, Governments, the specialized agencies, other international organizations, concerned United Nations bodies, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned with human rights are requested to submit recommendations for the Conference to the Preparatory Committee at its fourth session. These recommendations are contained in documents A/CONF.157/PC/61, A/CONF.157/PC/62 and A/CONF.157/PC/63 and their addenda, respectively.

16. In line with requests made by the Preparatory Committee at its first, second and third sessions and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/116, publications have been commissioned. For the status of preparation of publications and documentation, see document A/CONF.157/PC/64.

Management Committee

17. With regard to the organization and planning of the World Conference, the Centre for Human Rights has established a Management Committee of the World Conference, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions on the organization of major conferences, and in particular General Assembly resolution 37/14.

18. The Committee ensures detailed planning, scheduling and monitoring of both the departmental activities and the Conference preparations and maintains links in regard to all aspects of the organization of the Conference.

19. The Management Committee has established the following subcommittees:

(a) Subcommittee on the host country agreement;

(b) Subcommittee on non-governmental organizations;

(c) Subcommittee on national institutions.

Organization of the Conference

20. The attention of the Preparatory Committee at its fourth session is drawn to the draft rules of procedure for the World Conference, as contained in document A/CONF.157/PC/54.

21. In accordance with rule 6 of these draft rules of procedure, and as further elaborated by the decision of the Preparatory Committee at its third session in PC.3/1, the Conference shall elect from among the representatives of participating States 29 Vice-Presidents. Therefore, the Preparatory Committee at its fourth session may wish to decide the equitable geographical distribution of these offices.

22. Furthermore, in accordance with rule 46 of the draft rules of procedure for the World Conference, the Preparatory Committee at its fourth session, may wish to consider establishing for the Conference Main Committees as required which may set up subcommittees or working groups.

23. In addition to the committees referred to above, the Preparatory Committee at its fourth session, as provided for in rule 48 of the draft rules of procedure, may also wish to decide to establish for the Conference, such committees and working groups as it deems necessary for the performance of the functions of the Conference.